The Cleveland Museum of Art

Press Release

For Immediate Release
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THE CIRCLE OF MASKS AT THE CMA CELEBRATES LATIN-AMERICAN CULTURE

CLEVELAND — Families can enjoy a day of *free* mask making, exotic dances and giant puppets at the fifth annual **Circle of Masks** on Sunday, April 25, 1999 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Cleveland Museum of Art. The Circle of Masks is the official kick-off to artistic preparations for the annual **Parade the Circle Celebration**.

Inspired by the **Diego Rivera: Art and Revolution** exhibition (on view through May 2), this year's mask festival will celebrate Latin America's mix of Hispanic and pre-Hispanic cultures through workshops, dance performances, and the visual arts.

The day will feature three drop-in workshops from 1 to 3:15 p.m. in the Lower Level/ Education classrooms. Bruno Casiano of the Julia de Burgos Cultural Arts Center on Cleveland's West Side, along with Guatemalan native Hector Castellanos, will guide visitors in creating their own pre-Hispanic- and Hispanic-style masks in **Mask-Making Workshops**. Music lovers can learn to make instruments of Hispanic influence in an **Instrument-Making Workshop** led by ethnomusicologist Craig Woodson, who will show visitors how to make fipple flutes and hand drums from household items.

Families can also enjoy free dance concerts in the Indoor Garden Court. Dancer and choreographer **Ana Dumett** of Lima, Peru, will perform *Ventana a Nuestras Tradiciones*, a concert of Afro-Peruvian and Mexican dance, at 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. Those who have a penchant for passionate dance shouldn't miss *Romance and Revolution*, performed by the **Tom and Susana Evert Dance Theatre**. This piece was choreographed in honor of Diego Rivera by Susana Weingarten de Evert, a native of Mexico. Performances are at 2 and 3 p.m.

The festival's finale at 3:30 p.m. will be an interactive dance presentation, **Dancing with Diego**, featuring four 9-foot-tall puppets based on key figures in one of Rivera's most famous murals, *Dreaming of a Sunday Afternoon in the Alameda* (1947-48, Museo Mural Diego Rivera, Mexico City). The huge puppets will interact with the public and dance to turn-of-the-century Mexican music in front of a mural-like backdrop. The dancing puppets will depict a young Rivera, his wife Frida Kahlo, Mexican artist José Guadalupe Posada, and a

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representation of the popular Mexican folk symbol created by Posada, Catrina Calavera (Catrina as a Skeleton). The backdrop and puppets were created by CMA community arts coordinator Robin VanLear and Parade outreach artists Mark Jenks, Alison Egan, and Wendy Mahon-Hils.

Parade the Circle Celebration will celebrate its tenth year from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on **Saturday, June 12**, with a dazzling visual arts parade and a full day of festivities around University Circle's Wade Oval Green. The Circle of Masks is the first opportunity to see and purchase 1999 Parade posters and T-shirts, designed by mask festival artist Bruno Casiano. Parade visiting artists Felix Diaz and Rosario Fernando of Tijuana, Mexico, will be on hand to meet all the mask festival workshop participants.

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Parade the Circle Celebration is presented by the institutions of University Circle. The Parade is produced by The Cleveland Museum of Art and the Wade Oval Festivities are coordinated by University Circle Incorporated.

The Parade the Circle Celebration is sponsored by Metropolitan Bank & Trust with generous support from The George Gund Foundation. Additional support comes from the Ohio Arts Council, The Wolpert Fund of The Cleveland Foundation, and the Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Inc. This year's celebration is also supported posthumously by Laura G. Kichler, museum friend and lover of the arts. Promotional assistance is provided by *The Plain Dealer* and 89.7 WKSU.

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